

Next Generation of Army IT Leaders



WASH, D.C. In November 2006, the Army inducted five outstanding college graduates into the Army Knowledge Leaders' (AKL) two-year program that develops Information Technology (IT) civilian leaders.

"We are grooming this next generation to lead the way in supporting warfighters in a network-centric world," said Mr. Vernon Bettencourt, Deputy Army Chief Information Officer/G-6 (CIO/G-6) after he administered the Civilian Oath of Office to the five AKLeaders. Lt. Gen. Steven W. Boutelle, CIO/G-6, also presided.

Fifteen of the program's 17 graduates attended; all 17 hold Civil Service positions in Army IT.

The AKL program began in 2001 and includes leadership training and developmental assignments at varied Army locations. AKLeaders are selected from a national pool of high-achievement university graduates and must be outstanding scholars, with a grade-point average of 3.45 or higher.

The new AKLeaders are: Anthony M. Francis, Megan A. Pauley, Satiah G. Phillips, Bryan J. Pluta and Tuana Z. Smith. Francis is a cum laude graduate of Norwich University Military College of Vermont with a B.S. degree in Mathematics. Pauley is a graduate of Pennsylvania State University with a B.S. degree in Information Systems Management; she is completing a dual M.B.A. and M.S. in Information Systems Management at Duquesne University, PA. Phillips is a graduate of Bowie State University, MD, with a B.S. degree in Computer Science Technology and an M.S. degree in Management Information Science; she has begun studies for a Ph.D. in Applied Management Decision Sciences at Walden University. Pluta is a magna cum laude graduate of the University of Nebraska at Omaha with a B.S. degree in Management Information Systems. Smith is a cum laude graduate of the Virginia Commonwealth University with a B.S. degree in Computer Science.

The training program is aligned with the U.S. Clinger-Cohen Act of 1996, which requires government agencies to make sound investments in information technology and improve information technology and mission performance.

The AKLeaders Program is open to all recent university graduates who are outstanding scholars, U.S. citizens, and able to obtain a Secret clearance. For more information, contact Dr. Edward Fujimoto, Edward.Fujimoto@us.army.mil, 703-604-2059.



New Army IT Leaders take the Civilian Oath of Office, left to right: Tuana Z. Smith, Bryan J. Pluta, Satiah G. Phillips, Megan A. Pauley and Anthony M. Francis.